8. Private grantee institutions were not providing benefits to the needy and the poor.

Medical Equipments in Safdarjung Hospital

3949. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi is in dire need of transmission equipment including some of the vital equipment like MRI machines;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) by when these life-saving equipments are likely to be supplied?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Strengthening/Upgradation of Safdarjung Hospital is a continuous process.

Over the past few years, equipments like Spiral CT Scanner, Cathlab, Lithotrypsy, Whole-body Colour Doppler System etc., have been installed in the Safdarjung Hospital. Further, procurement of important equipments like MRI, Cobalt Therapy, Brachy Therapy machine and Back Alert 3-D system is at an advanced stage and the same are likely to be installed during the current financial year.

Modernisation of Hospitals

†3950. SHRI LEKHRAJ BACHANI:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that financial assistance has been received from World Bank for modernization of hospital of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of the States whose hospitals would be modernized by using the said financial assistance; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) by when this modernization work would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, World Bank assisted State Health System Projects, pertaining to strengthening and upgradation of secondary health care systems in the states have been approved and completed in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka and Punjab. Such projects in Orissa, Maharastra, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu are under implementation.

Gastric Cancer due to Nitrate

3951. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that over 25 crore people in the country face the risk of contracting gastric cancer and damage in their central nervous and cardio vascular system due to dangerously high levels of nitrate in ground water; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the WHO Guidelines of Drinking Water Quality, (3rd Edn., Vol. 1, Chapter 12, 2004), the weight of evidence is strongly against there being an association between nitrite and nitrate exposures in humans and the risk of cancer. A conclusive evidenced is yet to be established as regards the relationship between nitrite/nitrate and neurological manifestations. There is slight protective effects of these ions on the cardiovascular systems.

Falling Sex Ratio

3952. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact in their 7th Conference, the All India Democratic Women's Association has expressed concern over the falling sex ratio in the country;

(b) if so, whether the deficit of women in the pupulation is now 36 million in the country;